GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:51
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
LEAKAGE OF INFORMATION
Jai Parkash Shri ;Manvendra Singh Shri

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Governmet is aware that some Indian web- marketing organisations are involved in the leakage of personal information of customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the adverse impact of the same on the software business of the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide for stringent penalties in order to check such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether a meeting of IT officials and representatives of National Association of software Companies (NASSCOM) was held recently; and

(g) if so, the main issues discussed in this meeting and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO51 FOR 27.07.2005 REGARDING LEAKAGE OF INFORMATION.

(a) and (b): Web-marketing or BPO in IT sector is a de-licensed activity. Such operations are governed by a legal contract between the parties. Government does not directly regulate such activities.

A report had appeared on June 23, 2005 in The Sun (UK), resulting from an investigation by their reporter, about the alleged sale of customer data by an employee of a call center near Delhi. In April, 2005 it was alleged that three former employees of a Pune based company did some illegal transaction of funds of customers. It was found that the accused have committed fraud in their individual capacity and the BPO organization has not been involved. This will not have an adverse impact on software business of the country.

(c) and (d): Section 66 of the Information Technology Act 2000 provides for stringent penalties for infringement of such incidents including breaching of confidentiality, privacy and hacking of a computer system.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g): A high level meeting involving government officials, NASSCOM etc., was held to discuss this issue. It was suggested the Department of IT and NASSCOM to consult all stake holders and come forward with suggestions for changes in existing laws, if found necessary, to ensure that any form of cyber crime or breach of secrecy is made a punishable offence. The following steps are being taken:

- Revisiting the IT Act 2000 and Introduction of amendments, if any, to the IT Act 2000 that will provide stringent measures against the Criminals. An expert committee has been set up for this purpose.
- Training and supporting Indian Law enforcement agencies to ensure that they are well equipped to tackle cyber crimes.
- Establishment of a register of IT professionals by NASSCOM to ensure that only suitable staff isemployed in the Industry.